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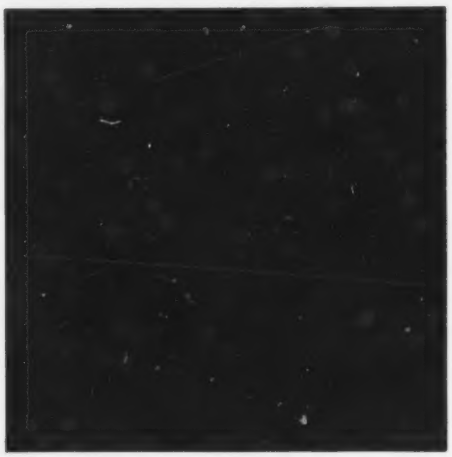

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1 November 1994

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Forty-ninth session
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Agenda item 89

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 27 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information prepared by the Federal Ministry for Development, Science and Environment on the effects of sanctions on the environment in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 89.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

94-42556 (E) 091194 101194

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Annex

THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavia had participated very actively in international cooperation in the field of environment, which was particularly intensified after the first United Nations Conference on the Environment, held in 1972 in Stockholm. We can say with pride that it was at the proposal of the Yugoslav delegation that the 5th of July, the first day of the Conference, was declared World Environment Day and is marked each year all over the world.

Regrettably, General Assembly resolution 47/1 has made it impossible for Yugoslav participants to attend international gatherings devoted to the promotion of cooperation in environmental protection. The efforts of a United Nations Member in environmental protection have been reduced to those at the national level and it has been left to rely on its own modest material and human resources.

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, it was pointed out, in particular, that nothing could be achieved in the field of environment through isolated national efforts and that international cooperation needed to be enhanced in order to prepare countries, in institutional terms, for sustainable growth, development of science, education and informatics and promotion of decision-making processes.

Even though formally, as well as according to the interpretation of legal counsels of the United Nations Secretary-General, the environment is not covered by the sanctions, their disastrous effects are directly reflected in this field as well. They have threatened the fundamental right proclaimed by principle 1 of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development, according to which human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. The growing unemployment and poverty have also degraded principle 5 of the Declaration, according to which all States and all people cooperate in order to eradicate poverty and to more successfully meet human needs. The utilization of natural wealth and resources is being increased, including even those that are covered by the special protection regime; natural and cultural heritage is under threat; less scope is provided for society to invest in environmental protection and improvement; the risk of damage is growing; the supervision and monitoring possibilities are reduced etc.

There are many examples of how the sanctions have threatened the environment in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On this occasion, we only wish to bring to your attention the drastic example of air pollution in the town of Bor owing to the operation of the metallurgical-chemical plants of the mining-smelter basin under abnormal conditions.

The plant, which produces sulphuric acid from waste gases of the plants in Bor, had to halt its production because all sulphuric acid storages in Yugoslavia were full (60,000 tons of monohydrates). The fertilizer chemical plants in Prahovo had used imported raw phosphate and sulphuric acid from Bor.

As a consequence of the sanctions, importation of phosphates was discontinued and utilization of sulphuric acid from Bor was halted. The complex production process which took decades to develop was discontinued. Instead of being used in the production of sulphuric acid, the by-products of the copper production are released into the air. Depending on the sulphur content in the ore, the presently released sulphur-dioxide concentration ranges from 1 to 8 per cent, or from 1,000 to 1,500 tons per day of sulphuric acid monohydrates.

The state of the environment in Bor and its surroundings has become critical, particularly at certain times (accident situations) when increased sulphur-dioxide concentrations (e.g., 6-8 per cent) coincide with adverse weather conditions (wind, low atmospheric pressure, humidity - dew or rain). The citizens of Bor as well as the population of the nearby villages have been affected, because sulphur-dioxide damages agricultural crops and forests.

The above problem can be resolved only provided that the contact sulphuric acid plants in Bor are put in operation to produce sulphuric acid required by the chemical industry facilities in Prahovo, which had been developed precisely for the purpose of neutralizing the sulphuric acid coming from the metallurgical facilities in Bor. To that end, it would be necessary to import 50,000 tons of raw phosphates a month.

In addition to air pollution, the area of Bor is also exposed to intensive water pollution and soil degradation. In the period preceding the sanctions, the Environmental Protection Project for the area of Bor was prepared and financial support was requested from international institutions. Because of the sanctions, the project implementation activities have been stopped.

Fortunately, no accidents have been registered in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia thus far as a result of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their removal, although, in the case of "hazardous waste" disposal in Albania, there was an imminent threat in the border areas of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that could have had unforeseeable consequences. However, accidents caused by hazardous waste disposal and movement in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia territory have been registered. The worst accident that happened and that still poses a potential threat in terms of river pollution is the one involving the hazardous waste dump in Mojkovac (Montenegro), in November 1992. Owing to the urgent intervention and assistance of the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the European Economic Community a great environmental disaster was prevented. This is a classic example which shows that environmental protection problems know no boundaries and that their settlement calls for the participation of the international community.

At the international gatherings which they attended, the Yugoslav delegations pointed out how dangerous it is to isolate and marginalize individual areas and States from global environmental activities. The participation of Yugoslav representatives in international gatherings was challenged, immediately after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/1, by invoking the undefined status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations and the application of the resolutions imposing

extremely rigid and partial sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Owing to the sanctions, Yugoslavia does not participate in the preparatory meetings of the international conference "The Environment for Europe", which it had initiated, and which is due to be held in Sofia in October 1995.

It is absurd that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not participating in the preparation and implementation of the regional projects for protection of the Danube and the Mediterranean, or in the settlement of global environmental problems (protection of the ozone layer, climatic changes). International financial, scientific and technical assistance for the implementation of priority environmental protection projects in Yugoslavia has also been halted due to the sanctions.

While Yugoslav representatives are prevented from taking part in the normal work of international organizations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia keeps receiving requests to honour its financial obligations to these international organizations. It is even threatened by expulsion from the organizations, one of which it was a founding member, because of its failure to discharge outstanding dues, which cannot be settled given the suspension of payments transactions.

Bearing in mind the fact that the field of the environment is not formally covered by sanctions, and that the process of lifting of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been initiated by the Security Council in resolution 943 (1994), we expect the international community to renew the very good cooperation in this field and to contribute towards the rehabilitation of damages incurred as a result of the unjustly imposed sanctions.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has, in fact, been prevented from applying and ratifying the international treaties in the field of environment. Yugoslavia is party to 51 international environmental treaties and is willing to duly perform the commitments made and take an equal part in the settlement of environmental protection problems.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 11 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the information on the consequences of the sanctions for the economy and foreign trade of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 88 (a).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

94-44875 (E) 171194 221194

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ANNEX

Consequences of the sanctions for the economy and foreign trade of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The sanctions of the international community imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Security Council resolution 757 (1992) and expanded under resolutions 787 (1992) and 820 (1993) have caused unfathomable consequences in all areas of social life in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The partial suspension of the sanctions in the field of air and maritime passenger traffic, culture and sports, adopted under Security Council resolution 943 (1994), practically contributes nothing towards the improvement of the general economic situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and consequently has no beneficial effects on any social service, the development of which hinges directly upon basic economic activities.

Bearing in mind the fact that the European Union, traditionally the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's major foreign trade partner, introduced restrictive measures towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as early as November 1991, the warranted conclusion is that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been under the sanctions for almost three years now. In this three-year period the social product, as the most significant indicator of the state of the economy, registered a dramatic decline: in 1991 it fell by 11 per cent relative to 1990, in 1992 by 27 per cent and in 1993 by a further 30.3 per cent. In 1994 the social product is estimated to be at its 1993 level. Thus from a developing country, with a social product of US$ 26.6 billion in 1990 (US$ 2,850 social product per capita), under the influence of a series of adverse economic factors, notably the unjustified sanctions imposed by the international community, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia became a low-income developing country with a social product of US$ 10 billion forecast for 1994 (under US$ 1,000 per capita social product).

Other economic parameters also indicate the pernicious effects of the sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's economy. Thus the volume of industrial output in 1992 fell by 21 per cent and in 1993 by as much as 37 per cent relative to the preceding year. In this context, the manufacturing branches of the economy were most hit by the sanctions. In 1992, agricultural production fell by 15 per cent, slowing down somewhat in 1993 to decline by 7.2 per cent relative to the year before. In 1994, the summer drought caused severe damage to the late crops, and the future of intensive farming remains uncertain, especially in view of the fact that the Security Council Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) does not permit the import of inputs (fuels, fertilizers, raw materials for fertilizers) necessary for the normal operation of the agricultural sector and food production. Construction activities also recorded a marked decline throughout this period. In 1992 it was 16 per cent and in 1993 a further 25 per cent. The shortage of investment finance is the greatest obstacle to reviving construction activities. The domestic market has constricted and domestic demand for construction works has weakened, and foreign capital projects have dramatically fallen due to the sanctions. Of all the economic branches, transport was the first to come under

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the sanctions. The ban on the transit of goods through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia resulted in the re-routing of commodity and tourist traffic outside Yugoslavia, which largely contributed to the reduction by 36 per cent of traffic in 1992 relative to 1991, and by 66 per cent in 1993 relative to the preceding year.

The loss incurred in the 1991-1994 period due to the drastic drop in the social product, the unrealized net foreign inflow and the need to provide net earnings to the temporarily unemployed and redundant labour has been estimated in mid-1994 to amount to over US$ 45 billion. However, the indirect damage sustained on account of the sanctions, reflected primarily in the fall of efficiency and productivity in the economy, the technological lag due to reduced domestic capital formation, the blockade of foreign investment and incentive finance, and the impossibility of transferring technologies and of free circulation of goods, services and capital, is vast and is roughly estimated to exceed US$ 140 billion.

What certainly deserves mention in this context are the immeasurable losses sustained by our country due to the impossibility of our representatives taking part in the work of a series of international organizations, the absence of scientific, cultural and sports interchange in an international framework, the extensive brain drain, the markedly deteriorated health condition and lower educational and cultural activity levels of the population, the increased mortality and decreased population birth rates.

The devastating consequences of the economic blockade were reflected the most in the drastic hyperinflation, which reached 313 million per cent in January 1994. The hyperinflation was primarily the consequence of the unexpected economic shock caused by the disintegration of the Yugoslav market and the blockade imposed by the international community, such circumstances necessarily resulting in the inflationary financing of payment, pension, welfare and health funds.

At the end of January 1994, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia embarked on the implementation of the Programme of Reconstruction of the Monetary System and the Strategy of Economic Recovery of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This programme yielded positive results, reflected, first of all, in the curbing of inflation, the slight increase of production, the reduction of the budget deficit at all levels and the stabilization of the dinar.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the implementation of the programme, in particular of the strategy of economic recovery of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will largely depend on the easing/lifting of the sanctions that the international community has imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. If this does not happen soon, however, the objectives of the Programme will be attained much more slowly, i.e. over a longer term, and economic reconstruction and the recovery of the country in general will be called into question, with all the adverse repercussions this entails for the living standard of the population.

In addition to the vast adverse effects in the most sensitive fields, such as health, welfare, education and others, the economic sanctions have hit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's foreign trade the hardest. Until the introduction of the Security Council sanctions, the economy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had been highly integrated in the world economic flows, and in view of its openness and comprehensive cooperation links it was considerably dependent on established foreign economic relations. This dependence was pronounced in both trade of commodities and in industrial cooperation - involving various licensing rights, co-production and joint ventures, scientific and technical cooperation, the exchange of services and financial transactions.

The economic blockade meant the loss of the markets of Yugoslavia's major trading partners, both European Union and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, as well as Eastern European and developing countries. The consequences of the impossibility of selling Yugoslav export goods for the operation and development of export-oriented sectors were devastating and were also attended by a paralysis of production in Yugoslavia's import-dependent enterprises; this in turn triggered a chain reaction undermining overall economic trends. This situation was initially brought about by the unilateral termination of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - EEC Agreement on Cooperation with its accompanying protocols (financial, trade and textile), with the exclusion of Yugoslavia from the list of beneficiaries of the generalized system of preferences. This was followed by the one-sided suspension of our activities in international organizations (the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, etc.) and the remaining multilateral (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, World Trade Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization and other) and bilateral treaties in the area of foreign trade, as well as in other areas of economic and financial cooperation. The lifting of the sanctions in itself will not enable the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's automatic reintegration in international economic flows, meaning that the direct adverse consequences of the sanctions will continue to be felt even after they are formally lifted.

In 1990, the last relatively stable year for the economy, Yugoslavia exported goods with a total value of US$ 5,712.5 million and imported goods valued at US$ 7,264.1 million. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's overall foreign trade, the developed countries of the West accounted for 50 per cent, Eastern European countries for 40 per cent and developing countries for 10 per cent. From June 1992, i.e. November 1991 (when the European Community introduced restrictive measures towards Yugoslavia) to date, this exceptionally important foreign trade has been reduced to the minimum, involving only some imports of humanitarian supplies (food and medication). The unfavourable effects of the sanctions on the basis of the decline of foreign trade as compared to 1990 amount to approximately US$ 32,439 million. This is the extent of lost foreign trade which could have been realized during the period under the sanctions.

The discontinuation of foreign trade did not mean for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the mere deprivation of the Yugoslav market of a certain range of goods but also the blocking and preventing of considerable domestic production facilities from producing for domestic needs due to the shortage of fuels, raw

materials and spare parts for the maintenance of equipment, without which certain lines of production simply cannot function. On the other hand, the impossibility of exporting Yugoslav goods has not only resulted in the temporary or permanent loss of markets in a number of countries and the impoverishment of the Yugoslav economy in terms of lost foreign currency, but has also heavily undermined Yugoslav manufacturing capacity, with all the negative consequences that this will entail for the Yugoslav economy as a whole. A large number of import-dependent and export-oriented enterprises have had to wind up operations, placing their workers on forced leave (1 million workers are on compulsory leave).

The sanctions have most adversely affected the Yugoslav tourist industry. Although they did not apply to individual tourist travel, foreign tourist trade fell to only 5 per cent of what it was in 1990, resulting in the loss of considerable foreign exchange earnings which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia used to chalk up on this basis. The primary cause of this decline is the severance of transport links with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as the inability of our tourist agencies to advertise abroad. The biased and untrue propaganda spread by the international mass media about the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has also lately deterred foreign tourists from coming to our country. All this has led to the discontinuation of initiated tourist industry projects, a decline in the standard of services, the erosion of the industry's infrastructure, the sending of tourist industry workers on compulsory leave, etc. Yugoslavia's membership in the World Tourism Organization was suspended, as were all the bilateral agreements in this field. The discontinuation of cooperation in the field made tourist information inaccessible to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and consequently made it impossible to follow the competition and trends in the international market.

From December 1988, when a new, liberal law on joint ventures was adopted in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, until the introduction of the sanctions by the international community, the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro were important recipients of direct foreign investments. Foreign persons were permitted to set up in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia both mixed companies with Yugoslav partners and their own companies and also freely to conclude joint venture agreements. Until the introduction of the sanctions, foreign investments had been steadily on the rise, so that by April 1991, foreign persons had set up in the territory of Yugoslavia 347 wholly owned enterprises with a capital of DM 142.6 million, and 1,153 mixed companies, with the foreign investment share being DM 938.3 million, and had concluded 228 joint venture contracts, with the foreign share being DM 400 million. However, with the introduction of the sanctions, most of these contracts were frozen and there have not been any new investments since the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was categorized as a high-risk country, which is considered unattractive for the investment of foreign capital. The economic blockade has also deprived the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of new technologies, equipment, know-how and experience, which accounted for a significant portion of joint ventures. A large number of jointly initiated investment ventures have been terminated, causing enormous damage and losses not only to the Yugoslav economy but to the foreign partners in question.

It is obvious from the circumstances described that the unjustly imposed sanctions have had unfathomable consequences for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's overall foreign trade relations. Unless the sanctions are lifted in the very near future and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is reintegrated in international commodity and monetary flows, the Yugoslav economy and people will sustain irreparable damage. At the same time, such a situation would be reflected in the neighbouring economies as well, and indeed in the entire region of the Balkans, given the geopolitical position and economic importance of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in this part of the world.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Letter dated 14 November 1994 from the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention decision IDB.13/Dec.20 (see annex) on industrial development cooperation adopted by the Industrial Development Board on 11 November 1994. The decision contains in paragraph (c) a recommendation which should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly during its forthcoming consideration of the item on industrial development cooperation at its current session.

The full text of the decision is attached herewith. The resolutions adopted by the General Conference of UNIDO at its fifth session as contained in GC.5/INF.4 and referred to in paragraph (c) of decision IDB.13/Dec.20, are also attached.

(Signed) Krishnaswamy VENKATARAMAN
Officer-in-Charge

94-45178 (E) 161194 181194

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ANNEX

Decision IDB.13/Dec.20 entitled "Industrial Development Cooperation"

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled articles 1 and 2 of the UNIDO Constitution and United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/196, which reaffirms the role of UNIDO as the coordinating organ in the United Nations system having primary responsibility for promoting and accelerating industrial development and the transfer of technology to developing countries;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 47/153, in which the Assembly expresses its conviction that, in order to promote the industrial development of developing countries, their indigenous capabilities in such areas as entrepreneurship, management, technology, financing, and marketing need to be built up or strengthened, and that technical and financial assistance in support of the national efforts of developing countries would need to be extended for that purpose;

(c) Recommended to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, in considering industrial development cooperation, to take into account the resolutions adopted by the General Conference of UNIDO at its fifth session (cf. GC.5/INF.4) in particular resolutions GC.5/Res.20 in which the Yaoundé Declaration a/ is adopted and GC.5/Res.12 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (see appendix).

8th plenary meeting
11 November 1994

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a/ For the Yaoundé Declaration, see A/49/347, appendix.

APPENDIX

Resolution GC.5/Res.12 entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa"

The General Conference,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/177 and resolution 1991/81 of the Economic and Social Council as well as UNIDO General Conference resolution GC.4/Res.8 and Board decision IDB.11/Dec.9 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) (1993-2002),

Taking note of the recommendations of the 10th and 11th meetings of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry contained in its resolutions 1(X) and 1(XI) on the programme of the Second IDDA,

Further taking note of the Mauritius Declaration on Africa's Accelerated Industrial Recovery and Development in the context of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) and beyond, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its 11th meeting,

Bearing in mind the low level of industrial development in Africa and recognizing the important role which UNIDO can play in the process of its rapid industrialization,

1. Requests the Director-General:

(a) To provide African countries assistance in formulating industrial sector policies with a view to creating an enabling environment for increased industrial investment, and in the formulation of policies, procedures and guidelines for enhancement of initiatives for private sector development;

(b) In cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to give high priority to the development of the African private sector and facilitate its involvement in the implementation of the programme for the Second IDDA;

(c) To ensure appropriate staffing for the implementation of the programme for the Second IDDA;

2. Urges multilateral development finance and bilateral aid institutions to give high priority to increased investment in the industrial sector as a means of encouraging foreign private investment in the industrial sectors in Africa;

3. Decides to give full support to all parts of the programme for the Second IDDA, and in doing so, give particular attention:

(a) To programme and project identification, preparation, implementation and monitoring;

(b) To preparation, evaluation and negotiations of bids and contracts;

(c) To production, marketing and distribution in relation to key consumer, intermediate and capital goods, especially in the subregional and regional context;

(d) To procurement, adaptation and development of technology, plant management and consultancy services;

(e) To industrial strategies and policies and setting up of institutional support, including development of sustainable institutional capability for industrial services and support to local enterprises in cooperation with local chambers of commerce and representatives of industry groups and associations;

(f) To comprehensive development of small- and medium-scale industries;

(g) To the assessment and determination of appropriate interrelationships between environmental and ecological needs and industrial growth and priorities in African countries;

4. Further requests the Director-General, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity:

(a) To continue to give high priority to the mobilization of external financial resources for the execution of programmes for the Second IDDA;

(b) To continue to intensify their cooperation in providing to African intergovernmental organizations the necessary assistance in strengthening the role of the industrial sector in the implementation of the subregional component of IDDA within the framework of the African Economic Community;

5. Requests the Director-General to present to the General Conference at its sixth session a report on the measures called for in the present resolution, through the Industrial Development Board.

7th plenary meeting
9 December 1993

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Agenda item 158

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the problems of population development in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 158.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

94-45637 (E) 251194 291194

ANNEX

1. For years Yugoslavia used to be an active participant in the work of numerous international organizations and gatherings devoted to population issues as well as in the formulation and implementation of pertinent international documents, including the Bucharest and Mexico Plans of Actior. In this context, it always advocated the broadest possible approach to population development, not only from the standpoint of the promotion of the right to a free choice in the number and spacing of children and the development of family planning programmes, but also from the aspect of the need to promote overall economic and social development in view of its close interaction with population development. The new dimension of the approach to these relations imposed by the limited extent of natural resources, which was highlighted particularly in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in September 1994, gave rise to expectations that that gathering would articulate a new approach to future population development, which, provided the necessary and adequate international cooperation was forthcoming, would be implemented both globally and regionally and nationally, tailored to respective specificities.

2. Having been precluded from participating in the Cairo Conference, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was denied the right to support such an approach, but equally to draw the attention of such an important gathering to the gravity of the current situation and of the expected consequences of the severe limitations on the development of its population entailed by the tragic events in the area of the former Yugoslavia and by the unjustly imposed sanctions of the international community.

3. The national reports which the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia submitted for both this Conference and the European Regional Conference - to which its official delegation was also denied attendance - clearly indicate that the consequences of those events and of the rigorous application of the sanctions severely afflict all fields the earlier development of which is behind the positive changes in population development which had brought the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia quite close to European standards, albeit with still pronounced regional differences.

4. Today the entire population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the refugees from the republics of the former Yugoslavia which it has taken in suffer the consequences of the drastic deterioration of economic trends synthetically expressed in the decline of the gross national product (GNP), which, according to estimates for 1993, has been reduced to somewhat over US$ 1,100 per capita annually. This has, in turn, been strongly reflected in a decline in the living standards and severely eroded the functioning of, in particular, the health system, but also of the educational and social welfare systems which play a crucial role in the pursuit of population policies. The introduction of the Security Council sanctions is a drastic example of how the political decisions of the international community can contribute to the extreme exacerbation of the economic and social conditions of population development, difficult as they may be already, and thereby jeopardize the future of an entire nation living in the heart of developed Europe.

5. The population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which, according to the last census in 1991, numbered 10.41 million, was determined by low growth rates and a downward tendency over a protracted period (1971-1981: 9.1 per thousand; 1981-1991: 6.6 per thousand; 1991: only 4.9 per thousand) and the influence of migrations which were positive until the last decade (0.7 per thousand), to become negative in the period 1981-1991 (-1.7 per thousand).

6. The low population growth rate would not be unsatisfactory observed at the level of the whole country were it not for the marked regional differences hidden behind it. On the one hand, a steadily falling number of births and unsatisfactory fertility (on the very verge of or below the reproduction threshold) characterize the largest part of the country, which, coupled with ageing, especially of the female and non-urban population segments, and the relatively high mortality rates, result in the spreading of the area of low and even negative growth rates within Central Serbia and the province of Vojvodina and towards the Republic of Montenegro. On the other hand there are areas, notably the province of Kosovo and Metohija within the framework of the Republic of Serbia, where, notwithstanding established downward tendencies, high birth rates are still being registered, which, compounded by the high share of young people in the population pattern and low mortality rates, results in high population growth.

7. In earlier years, numerous measures of population and other relevant policies were employed to address the economic and social implications normally entailed by so uneven a population volume, pattern and distribution. Today, weighed down by the problems with which it is confronted in the economic, social and every other domain, aggravated to the maximum by the sanctions of the international community, not only is it extremely difficult for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to implement such measures, but its overall population is exposed to the hazards of retrograde tendencies evident in factors influencing both natural and mechanical population movements.

8. The devastating effect of the sanctions is especially in evidence in the functioning of the health system. The enormous difficulties it is facing have already been strongly manifested in the reduced extent and quality of health care, which, together with the rapid and severe decline in the living standards, have resulted in the deteriorated health status of the population, with heightened pathology, morbidity and mortality.

9. Under such circumstances, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has adopted a special strategy and measures for the provision of health care, according absolute priority, apart from to the elderly, urgent cases and infectious diseases, also to children and adolescents under 18, and women during pregnancy, childbirth and a year after parturition. Even where these categories of the population are concerned, the health system is necessarily predominantly curative, with some exceptionally significant preventive activities, such as routine check-ups of infants, pre-school and schoolchildren, pregnant women and women of generative age, having been reduced by as much as 30 per cent.

10. The consequences are evident. The steady downward infant mortality trend registered in the past has been reversed; there is an increasing number of pregnancies and childbirths attended by complications, professionally unattended deliveries, and prematurely born babies.

11. The renewed incidence is registered of a number of once eradicated contagious diseases among both children and adults. Chronic non-contagious diseases, typical of the pathology of developed countries, are on the rise among adults, but so are diseases and phenomena which arise as a consequence of existential deprivation caused by the severe erosion of the financial and social standing of the population, such as mental disorders, accidents and injuries, and suicides. There is an increasing number of miscarriages and cases of sterility.

12. All this, coupled with the decline in the living standards, high unemployment and the formidable obstacles to the operation of welfare and child-care institutions and social transfers as well as of the educational system, has adversely affected the state of the population in general and its reproductive behaviour in particular.

13. At the same time, the exceptionally difficult circumstances in which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia lives have given rise to a new dimension in terms of the effects of the mechanical movement of the population on the current situation and its future growth. In addition to traditional internal migrations, primarily featuring the concentration of the population in cities and the evacuation of rural areas, new migrations are also changing the demographic map of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In recent years, these have involved hundreds of thousands of refugees from the republics of the former Yugoslavia, with an exceptionally vulnerable composition dominated by children, women, the elderly and the sick, whose care is the obligation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until conditions are created for those who are able to do so to return to their earlier places of residence.

14. On the other hand, external-bound migrations of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards European and overseas countries have intensified of late. These are the direct consequence of the present difficulties in the economic and social fields, which have, inter alia, made it impossible to complete initiated programmes in the areas of industry, agriculture, tourism and other activities which offered the people realistic prospects if, rather than migrate, they remained in or returned to certain regions featuring extensive evacuation.

15. The fact that these migrations include predominantly the economically active and fertile population segments, with a large share being highly educated, makes them all the more worrisome. Although the actual proportions of this phenomenon have not been precisely quantified, observed over the long term it may well have negative implications for the demographic development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially if it goes on for some time to come or if the people leave for good.

16. The demographic problems referred to and their potential consequences determine the common framework, directions and plan of action of the country's

population policy. The objective of this plan of action, which the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia presented in its report for the Cairo Conference, is first and foremost to introduce measures to overcome the current unfavourable state of affairs and then fall in line with other countries in an effort to ensure for the future a uniform and moderate population growth, compatible with sustainable development but equally with the right to childbirth as a universally accepted basic human right.

17. In pursuing the goals set, the plan of action envisages, inter alia, the continued implementation of measures designed to rid reproduction of both atavistic and modern pressures in order to reduce excessive and increase insufficient natality to converge around the replacement level. Closely associated with this goal is the further promotion of the status of women in the family and society and the development of relevant family and child help services. This involves the further advancement of the general and health education levels, the promotion of the overall health condition of the population and the reduction of morbidity and mortality, in particular of infants, young children and other vulnerable categories. The plan of action also stresses the need to undertake measures to facilitate the return of refugees to their homes, or, if this should prove to be unfeasible, their integration in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as measures for the return and reintegration of young people who have left the country.

18. It is quite certain that the essential prerequisite for implementing the measures envisaged in the plan is the normalization of conditions for the implementation of economic and social development and environmental protection programmes.

19. Initial results towards the normalization of these conditions have been achieved by the implementation of the Programme of Reconstruction of the Monetary System and Strategy of Economic Recovery of Yugoslavia. However, its potential for contributing substantially to the removal of the difficulties and problems with which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is confronted, despite the broadest consensus upon which it rests, will be considerably constrained unless the very near future brings the lifting of the sanctions, by the unjustified introduction of which the international community is punishing an entire nation and denying it the right to consolidate its past gains and adapt itself to the changing conditions of life on Earth ushered in by the twenty-first century.